Distinctive Features

Description: The Northeast sub-area (see map at the end of this section) is characterized by established neighborhoods with pockets and corridors of higher-density and new development. This sub-area does not include the Lloyd District, nor the east bank of the Willamette River, which are included in the Central City/Northwest sub-area.

Resources and Facilities: There are 508 acres of park land in Northeast, placing this sub-area last among the sub-areas with the least amount of park acreage. Although there are a relatively large number (twenty-six) of neighborhood and community parks, their combined acreage is only 191 acres.

- Natural resource areas in this area include Rocky Butte, Johnson Lake, Whitaker Ponds and about seven miles of the Columbia Slough, all on the edges of the sub-area. The central part of the sub-area contains very few natural resource areas.
- East Delta Park includes major sports facilities with Strasser Field/ Stadium, eight other soccer fields, the five-field William V. Owens softball complex, two more ball fields and six sand volleyball courts.
- Peninsula Park has a very fine rose garden, with more roses than the International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park. There are six community garden sites with 114 plots.
- Two community centers – Matt Dishman and Peninsula – serve this area. Rice School houses a satellite facility for the Montavilla Center.
- Aquatic facilities include the outdoor pools at Grant and Peninsula Parks and the indoor pool at Matt Dishman Community Center.
- There are three Community Schools and 31 school sites.
- Normandale Park includes a lighted baseball stadium.
- The 18-hole Rose City Golf Course is in the southeast corner of the sub-area.
- The Roseway Parkway, a major feature in the Roseway neighborhood, provides visual access to the Columbia River.
- Major trails include the I-205 Bikeway and the Marine Drive and Columbia Slough sections of the 40-Mile Loop Trail.

Population - Current and Future: The Northeast sub-area ranks third in population with 103,800 and is projected to grow to 109,270 in 2020, an increase of 5%.
Northeast Issues and Needs

**Park Shortages**

- The following areas are particularly park deficient:
  - The area bounded by NE Prescott, 42nd Avenue, and Sandy Boulevard
  - The area bounded by NE Killingsworth, 33rd Avenue, Fremont, and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
  - The Cully-Parkrose area, which has only one small, undeveloped park and one large site that cannot be developed for many years because of environmental factors
- There are very few habitat parks and few completed contiguous trails.
- Since most of Northeast is developed, there is little opportunity to acquire vacant land to meet park and recreation needs.

**Risks to Natural Resources**

- Unlike other sub-areas, the Northeast has few significant natural resource sites. Only one-percent of the city’s habitat park acreage is located in Northeast. The only significant sites are Rocky Butte, portions of the Columbia Slough, and the Whitaker Ponds site.
- Except for Whitaker Ponds, there are no natural resource sites on the 4.5 mile length of the Columbia Slough.

**Risks to Urban Forest**

- There are a significant number of mature and over-mature trees and many areas where trees have not been replaced in the urban forest.
- The urban forest canopy on private property is sparse and aging.
- There is a lack of diversity in the tree species in the right-of-way, and limited opportunities to plant trees on unimproved streets.

**Facility Deficiencies**

- The two community centers - Dishman and Peninsula - are located on the outer fringe of the sub-area. A large portion of the sub-area is underserved. Population growth will exacerbate this facility shortage, and will increase demands on remaining centers.
- Parking is limited at Dishman Community Center and parts of the facility are in poor condition.
- Aquatic facilities in Northeast are small and inadequate. Dishman Community Center has a 25-yard indoor pool and a jacuzzi. Aquatic programs at this facility are limited, and expansion is difficult.
- The pool at Peninsula Community Center needs renovation, including replacement of the shell.
- The 25-yard outdoor pool at Grant Park is in poor to fair condition.

**Problems with Access, Trails and Connectivity**

- The Columbia Slough and the 40-Mile Loop are important resources in the area, but industrial uses and a lack of safe crossings at major highways often obstruct access to them.
- There are no designated pedestrian connections from the residential areas to the 40-Mile Loop Trail.
- Many gaps exist in the Columbia Slough and Marine Drive sections of the 40-Mile Loop Trail.
Although many residents live near the Willamette River, access to it is limited. Lack of access to facilities and cost of programs often result in lower participation rates in PP&R programs by the many minority groups and some lower-income households in Northeast.

**Northeast Recommendations**

**Acquire Land and Develop Parks**
- Acquire a community park site large enough to accommodate a full-service community center.
- Work with neighbors to plan and develop the new Thomas Cully Community Park at NE 75th and Killingsworth, when conditions allow.
- Forge partnerships with one or more businesses to acquire and develop urban squares, plazas and pocket parks in the Hollywood area.
- Work with the State to develop access to, and open space, park and recreation opportunities on Government Island.
- Acquire additional land on Rocky Butte.
- Work with schools to use school grounds for open space in some neighborhoods.
- Look for creative ways to provide additional park sites to fully serve this sub-area, since vacant land is limited.

**Protect and Improve Natural Resources**
- Enhance the natural resources of Sullivan’s Gulch in conjunction with trail development. (See information in ‘trails’ section below.)
- Work with City bureaus to improve habitat quality in and along the Columbia Slough. Work with Metro and the City to establish natural areas and access on the Columbia River.
- Develop access for non-motorized watercraft at the Columbia Slough.
- Develop an environmental education center at Whitaker Ponds.

**Protect and Improve Urban Forest**
- Encourage tree plantings to replace the declining canopy on private property.
- Develop an inventory to provide clear information on current conditions that will guide future decisions.

Ensure that adequate planting strips are provided to accommodate street trees when development occurs.

**Expand and Develop Recreation Facilities and Programs**
- Provide a full-service community center in the Cully-Parkrose area, near I-205, similar to the Southwest Community Center.
- Renovate Dishman to provide more service. Increase parking.
- Renovate the pool at Peninsula Community Center. Replace the wading pool with a water-play feature.
- Renovate the outdoor pool at Grant Park.
- Develop new sports fields, in conjunction with schools or other institutions if appropriate.
- Convert existing turf soccer fields at East Delta to synthetic grass and add lights.
- Add seniors-only and/or intergenerational programs at Peninsula and Dishman Community Centers.

**Develop Park Access, Trails and Connectivity**
- Develop stronger connections from the neighborhoods and provide access to the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.
- Complete the Columbia Slough portion of the 40-Mile Loop Trail and develop neighborhood connections to it.
- Work cooperatively with city planners to develop a multi-modal trail in Sullivan’s Gulch to connect Gateway and the I-205 bikeway to the Eastbank Esplanade.
- Develop bike lanes and pedestrian connections to existing facilities such as Rocky Butte, Rose City Park and Golf Course, schools and community facilities.
- Develop trails around Rocky Butte and in the area of the I-205 bike path.
- Increase paved trails by about 55 miles and soft-surface trails by about 70 miles.
- Form a partnership with the Port of Portland to complete the 40-Mile Loop and Greenway trails within Port properties.
### NORTHEAST SUB-AREA - Park Sites to be Developed and Renovated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Develop New Park</th>
<th>Redevelop Exstg. Park</th>
<th>Extensive Renovation</th>
<th>Basic Renovation</th>
<th>Repairs</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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**Develop New Parks**
Unimproved sites to be developed as neighborhood, community or regional parks. Master plans are needed before development. At some sites, additional land may be needed before development can occur.

**Redevelop Exstg. Park**
Sites that have a minimal level of improvements. Master plans are needed before development.

**Extensive Renovation**
Developed parks that either are (a) already scheduled for renovation or (b) have several basic features that are in poor condition. These sites may have problems that collectively may trigger a larger renovation project.

**Basic Renovation**
Developed parks with one or two basic features in poor condition. Correcting these problems will not modify other park features. Some of these may be bond projects that were not fully improved due to a lack of funds.

**Repairs**
Developed park with improvements that need only minor repairs or changes to a few features.

**Notes:**

- a. Top part of Rocky Butte
Northeast Portland has a lot of beautiful parks with magnificent mature trees that feel like leafy grandpas and grandmas, but the parks are old and many need special care and renovation. We wish we had better access to trails and natural habitats! And a full service inter-generational community center with indoor aquatics, basketball, exercise equipment and meeting rooms would provide a healthy gathering place for our youngsters, teens and adults.”

Barb Scharff, NE Portland resident & Vision Team member

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>R M Plan</th>
<th>Extensive Rehabilitation</th>
<th>Basic Rehabilitation</th>
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Resource Management Plan: Ecosystem-based plans for parks or properties with significant natural resources

Extensive Rehabilitation: Parks or natural resource areas in poor condition that require extensive rehabilitation

Basic Renovation: Parks or natural resource areas that require basic rehabilitation

Repairs: Trails or facilities that need minor repairs or improvements

Notes: a. Partially funded